

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
February 6, 2001

To:

Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, MT 59620
Montana State Library, P.O. Box 201899, Helena, MT 59620-1800
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Montana Natural History Center, Box 8514, Missoula, MT 59807
Montana State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
Dept. Health and Environmental Sciences, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Legal Unit, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701
Lands Unit, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701
Parks Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701
Director's Office, Department of Environmental Quality, Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Chris Heggem, Senator Conrad Burns, 187 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
Karen Bridges, Senator Max Baucus, 511 Hart SOB, Washington, DC 20510
Jim Foley, Senator Max Baucus, 511 N. Higgins, Ste. 102, Missoula, MT 59802
Sharon Peterson, Senator Max Baucus, 207 N. Broadway, Billings, MT 59101
Congressman Dennis Rehberg, 516 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515-2601
Mark Baumler, Montana Historical Society, Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
Clint Blackwood, Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, PO Box 201203, Helena, MT 59620
Bob Bullers, Missoula Wildlife Association, 401 Burlington, Missoula, MT 59801
Bud Clinch, DNRC, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
Marcia Cross, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, P.O. Box 278, Pablo, MT 59855
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 924, Helena, MT 59924
Jeff Hagener, Montana Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Tony Incashola, Salish Culture Committee, Box 550, St. Ignatius, MT 59865
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, , PO Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Senator Fred Thomas, , 3566 Holly Ln, Stevensville, MT 59870-6634
Representative Butch Waddill, , 700 Tie Chute Ln, Florence, MT 59833-6545
Germaine White, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, PO Box 278, Pablo, MT 59855

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Traveler's Rest

The enclosed "draft" Environmental Assessment to accept a tract of land (15 acres) through donation is submitted for your consideration. This parcel of land located on the south end of Lolo, MT, is part of the Travelers' Rest camp site used by Native Americans for centuries and by the historic Lewis and Clark expedition on two separate occasions. It will provide visitor access to this historic site. There are no proposed changes to the existing structures and the installation of a latrine to meet visitor services is planned. All questions and comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 8, 2001. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at (406) 542-5517. All comments may be sent to the undersigned.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Lee Bastian

Lee Bastian
Regional Park Manager

Missoula

The following individuals and/or organizations have received notice of the release of the "draft" Environmental Assessment pertaining to a portion of the Travelers' Rest site.

Fisheries Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701
Wildlife Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701
Missoula County Commissioners, 200 W. Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802-4292
Mike Aderhold, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405
Betsy Allen, Senator Conrad Burns, 208 N. Montana Avenue, Ste. 202A, Helena, MT 59601
Kathy Anderson, PO Box 401, Lolo, MT 59847
Deborah Austin, Lolo National Forest
Jean Belangie-Nye, 321 O'Connell, Lolo, MT 59847
Senator Dale E. Berry, 852 Ponderosa Dr, Hamilton, MT 59840-9121
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Representative John Brueggeman, 321 Lakeview Dr, Polson, MT 59860-9317
Bruce Burk, Lolo Peak News, Box 1017, Lolo, MT 59847
Representative Rosalie Buzzas, 233 University Ave, Missoula, MT 59801-4351
Dan Cahalan, 233 Cap de Villa, Lolo, MT 59847
Wendy Chandler, L & C Productions, 4479 Sunburst Lane, Stevensville, MT 59870
Senator Vicki Cocchiarella, 535 Livingston Ave, Missoula, MT 59801-8003
Tom Cook, Tom Cook Realty, Box 786, Lolo, MT 59847
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Mary Ellen Davis, 525 Dore Drive, Lolo, MT 59847
Janet Davis, Davis Second Hand Store, Box 626, Lolo, MT 59847-0626
Senator Bob DePratu, PO Box 1217, Whitefish, MT 59937-1217
Ernie Deschamps, 5769 Hwy 93 S, Florence, MT 59833
Senator Jon Ellingson, 430 Ryman St, Missoula, MT 59802-4249
Representative Ron Erickson, 3250 Pattee Canyon Rd, Missoula, MT 59803-1703
Representative Tom Facey, 418 Plymouth St, Missoula, MT 59801-4133
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Representative Dick Haines, 5935 St Francis Dr, Missoula, MT 59803-2945
Bruce Hall, Bonner Development Group, Inc., Box 731, Milltown, MT 59581
Senator Mike Halligan, PO Box 9121, Missoula, MT 59807-9121
Teri Heath, Travelers' Rest Chapter LCTHF, Box 236, Lolo, MT 59847
Stan C. Hendricksen, Box 267, Lolo, MT 59847
Ramona Holt, H Bar R Ranches, Box 129, Lolo, MT 59847
Bonnie Honohan, Starfire Farm Lodge, 401 Fleet Road, Hamilton, MT 59840
Don Hyypa, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, PO Box 1630, Miles City, MT 59301
Representative Verdel Jackson, 555 Wagner Ln, Kalispell, MT 59901-8079
Representative Joey Jayne, 299 Lumpry Rd, Arlee, MT 59821-9747
Mike Johnston, Montana River Guides, 210 Red Fox Rd., Lolo, MT 59847
Senator Bob Keenan, PO Box 697, Bigfork, MT 59911-0697
Ralph A. Kulberg, 2401 N. Ocean Blvd., 7N, Boca Raton, FL 33431
Representative Rick Laible, 529 Moose Hollow Rd, Victor, MT 59875-9303
Neva Larson, Box 98, Lolo, MT 59847
Senator Dale Mahlum, 10955 US Highway 93 N, Missoula, MT 59808-9227
Andrea Maurer, Box 97, Lolo, MT 59847
Nancy Maxson, Travelers' Rest Chapter LCTHF, 622 W. Bickford, Missoula, MT 59801
Senator Bea McCarthy, 1906 Ogden St, Anaconda, MT 59711-1706

Bob McCormick, 419 St. Mary Drive, Stevensville, MT 59802
Loraine Michels, 911 Palmer Street, Missoula, MT 59802
Frank Miller, Hayloft Equipment, Box 723, Lolo, MT 59847-0723
Diana Mitchell, 7055 Lolo Creek Rd., Lolo, MT 59847
Representative Doug Mood, PO Box 42, Seeley Lake, MT 59868-0042
C. Douglas Morigeau, The People's Center, Box 278, Pablo, MT 59855
Joseph Mussulman, VIAs Multimedia Productions, Box 954, Lolo, MT 59847
Dave Nelson, VIAs Multimedia Productions, Box 954, Lolo, MT 59847
Bo Nielsen, Travelers' Rest Chapter LCTHF, 2245 Sunlite Lane, Missoula, MT 59804-6300
Harvey Nyberg, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, MT 59105
Jeff Olson, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Box 2376, Bismarck, ND 58502
Alex Philip, University of Montana, James E. Todd Bldg, Missoula, MT 59812
David Purviance, University of Montana, University Relations, Missoula, MT 59812
Representative Holly Raser, 4304 Spurgin Rd, Missoula, MT 59804-4520
Representative Nancy Rice Fritz, 1817 Daniel Dr, Missoula, MT 59802-4926
Steve Running, University of Montana-EOS, James E. Todd Bldg, Missoula, MT 59812
Marilyn Ryan, Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, , Missoula,
Jim Salterfield, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Rural Route 1 - 4210, Glasgow, MT 59230
Representative Jim Shockley, PO Box 608, Victor, MT 59875-0608
Scott Sproull, Rocky Mountain Discovery Tours, 248A North Higgins Avenue PMB 520, Missoula, MT 59802
Donald J. Steiger, Box 1, Lolo, MT 59847
Senator Mike Taylor, PO Box 152, Proctor, MT 59929-0152
Nadine Thyfault, 600 Ridge Way, Lolo, MT 59847
Lucy Vanderburg, The People's Center, Box 278, Pablo, MT 59855
Dan Vincent, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901
Mike Wallace, Travelers' Rest Chapter LCTHF, 520 Fescue Slope, Florence, MT 59833
Representative Allan Walters, 416 Grantsdale Rd, Hamilton, MT 59840-3335
Representative David E. Wanzenried, 903 Sky Dr, Missoula, MT 59804-3121
Francis Weigand, Travelers' Rest Chapter, 335 Eddy Avenue, Missoula, MT 59801
Tom Welch, Lolo Trail Cafe, Box 969, Lolo, MT 59847-0969
Robert P. Yost, 403 N. Fulton Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79416
Marge Zaveta, Box 1587, Lolo, MT 59847

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP) proposes to acquire a property that is part of the Traveler's Rest camp site used by the historic Lewis and Clark expedition. The 15-acre parcel (subject property) is located along Lolo Creek at 6550 Mormon Creek Road near Lolo, Montana. The subject property would be made available through a donation process.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action

MCA 23-1-102 and MCA 87-1-209

3. Name of Project

Travelers' Rest

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)

Doug Skiba, Project Manager, Travelers' Rest Preservation Project
Box 995, Lolo, MT 59847
Work phone: 406-273-4253
Fax: 273-4254
Email: dskiba@travelersrest.org

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Not Applicable

Estimated Completion Date: Not Applicable

Current Status of Project Design (% complete): Not Applicable

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township):

Missoula County, T12N, R20W, Section 34, SE¼ SE¼ (see **Figures 1 and 2**).

Legal description: Lots 1 and 14 of Van Ostrand Addition, a platted subdivision of Missoula County, Montana.

Figure 1. LOCATION MAP
PHASE I - TRAVELER'S REST

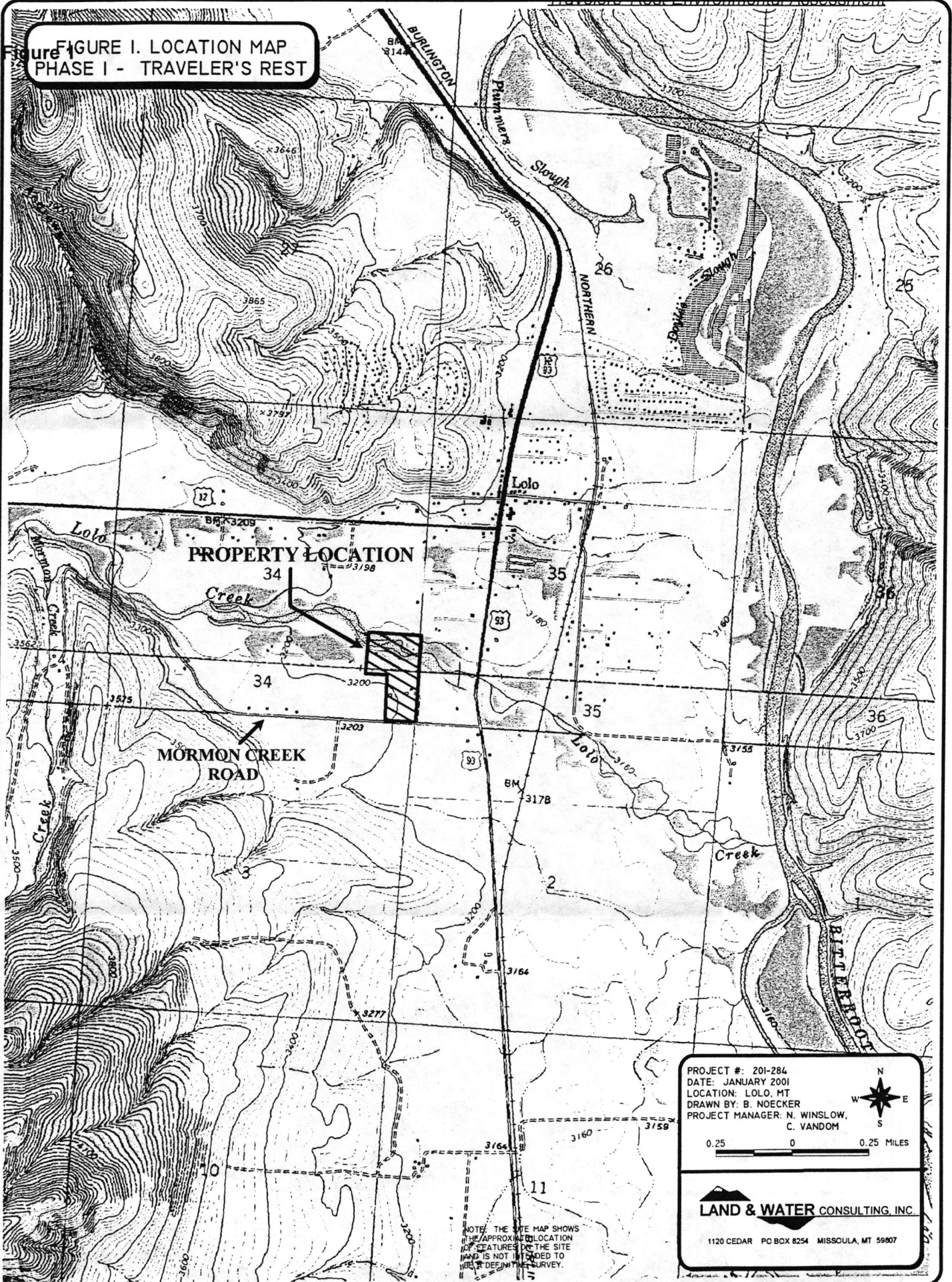


Figure 2. SITE MAP
PHASE I - TRAVELER'S REST



7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

- (a) Developed:
 - residential..... 1 acres
 - industrial..... acres
- (b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation 14 acres
- (c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas..... 4.5 acres
- (d) Floodplain 4.5 acres
- (e) Productive:
 - irrigated cropland acres
 - dry cropland acres
 - forestry acres
 - rangeland acres
 - irrigated rangeland..... 9.5 acres
 - other acres
- (f) Total acreage..... 15 acres

- 8. Map/site plan:** **Figure 1** is the site location and vicinity map placed on a USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle map. **Figure 2** is an aerial photograph showing surface features of the subject property.

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

Travelers' Rest is a key Lewis and Clark and Native American historical and archaeological site located in the unincorporated town of Lolo, Montana in Missoula County. The Deschamps (subject) property proposed for acquisition by FWP includes 15 acres of the historic site (**Figures 1 and 2**). The subject property is one of several privately owned parcels of the approximately 50-acre Traveler's Rest historic site.

Native Americans used the Travelers' Rest site beginning about 8,000 years ago. It was a trail junction used by the Nez Perce to reach the eastern buffalo country. Lemhi Shoshone and Salish peoples also used the camp site and nearby roads.

The Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery spent nearly a week at Travelers' Rest on two occasions (September 9-10, 1805; June 30-July 1-2, 1806) when they were exploring the Louisiana Purchase and searching for the Northwest Passage. On their return trip to the east in 1806, the captains separated the Corps of Discovery at the site.

A recent re-evaluation of journals and maps from the Lewis and Clark expedition determined that the 15-acre Deschamps property was at the heart of the Lewis and Clark camp site (Bergantino, 1998). A button from that era was found on an adjacent parcel, a few feet from the subject property. An analysis of aerial infra-red photography located anomalies suggestive of tepee rings on and near the subject property (Hall, 1998).

The subject property is one of the few sites in the 50-acre Travelers' Rest area that has not been developed. The bench and river bottom below the Deschamps house probably remains in much the same condition as it did during Lewis and Clark's visit. Bergantino (1998) determined from Lewis and Clark's journals that the expedition camped on this "sunny bench" overlooking Lolo Creek.

The Deschamps residence has historic significance in itself. The main house was the headquarters for a large dairy farm that operated from the late 1800s until the 1960s. Water rights for the property were filed in 1894. The farm house and barn may have been constructed near the turn of the 19th century.

After word began to spread about the Travelers' Rest camp site in 1997, the Deschamps property was inundated with visitors. Over 2000 visitors have come through the gate at the subject property. Visitors have come from all over the country and from some foreign countries. Even more visitors are expected in the next several years during the 200-year anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

In the last two years, other portions of the Travelers' Rest area have been developed into residential dwellings and trailer courts. Preservation and oversight of the subject property by FWP would maintain its unique natural character and historic significance for future generations.

Travelers' Rest has been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service and former First Lady Hillary Clinton's Office with a prestigious "Saving America's Treasures" designation. In 1999, it was awarded a spot on the "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" listing from the National Trust. Also that year the site archaeologist and local chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation were featured in a History Channel documentary.

The Travelers' Rest site was designated a National Historic landmark on October 10, 1960. National Historic Landmarks make tangible the American experience. They are places where our nation's most significant historical events occurred, where prominent Americans worked or live, that represent those ideas that shaped the nation, that provide important information about our past, or that are outstanding examples of design or construction (National Park Service, 1998).

A unique partnership of local community members, including a Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation chapter, federal agency partners, local government and national nonprofits has formed to protect and preserve Travelers' Rest from residential development. The project was incubated by the Montana Community Development Corporation, which was awarded a Housing and Urban Development grant of \$200,000 to form a Lolo Community Development Corporation (LCDC) focused on the preservation effort. The LCDC will be a stand-alone non-profit organization focused on preservation of the Travelers' Rest site and community development. It has arranged for purchase of the Deschamps property by a private foundation that will donate the property to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FWP and the LCDC will be developed to delineate resources and areas of responsibility for short-term and long-term operations and maintenance. The LCDC is developing a management plan for the site, while it seeks funding to preserve other parts of the Travelers' Rest area and continue its function as a community development corporation. The Missoula County Office of Planning and Grants has issued a contract for a private research team to carry out a large-scale archeological study of the site.

The LCDC will maintain an office at the subject property. An LCDC employee will live on the property and will be the property caretaker. The only building planned for construction at this time is a concrete-vault toilet next to the driveway of the main house. No FWP funds will be needed to operate and maintain the subject property at this time.

References:

- Bergantino, R.N., 1998. *An evaluation of original Lewis and Clark information to determine the location of Travelers Rest Camp, Lolo, Montana*. Montana Tech, Butte, Montana.
- Hall, D.S., 1997. *Aerial Infra-red analysis Travelers Rest Site, Lolo, Montana*. Prepared for Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation, Travelers Rest Chapter. Heritage Research Center.
- USDI National Park Service, 1998. *1997 Landmarks at Risk Report*. National Park Service Report.

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

| <u>Agency Name</u> | <u>Permit</u> | <u>Date Filed/#</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| None | | |

(b) Funding:

| <u>Agency Name</u> | <u>Funding Amount</u> |
|---|-----------------------|
| • Housing and Urban Development | \$200,000 |
| • Anonymous Donor to the Montana Community Development Corp. (Undisclosed amount) | |

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

| <u>Agency Name</u> | <u>Type of Responsibility</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| none | |

11. List of Agencies Consulted during Preparation of the EA:

- Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks , Lee Bastian and Paul Valley
- Montana Natural Heritage Program, Martin P. Miller
- Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center
- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Water Rights
- Missoula County Office of Planning and Grants, Tim Hall, Planner
- Missoula County Surveyors Office
- Missoula County Assessors Office
- Missoula County Health Department, Environmental Health

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

| 1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in: | IMPACT [⌘] | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated [⌘] | Comment Index |
|---|----------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown [⌘] | None | Minor [⌘] | Potentially Significant | | |
| ► a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure? | | X | | | | |
| b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility? | | X | | | | |
| ► c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features? | | X | | | | |
| d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake? | | X | | | | |
| e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard? | | X | | | | |
| f. Other | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

| 2. AIR Will the proposed action result in: | IMPACT [⌘] | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated [⌘] | Comment Index |
|---|----------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown [⌘] | None | Minor [⌘] | Potentially Significant | | |
| ► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c)) | | X | | | | |
| b. Creation of objectionable odors? | | X | | | | |
| c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? | | X | | | | |
| d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants? | | X | | | | |
| e. For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a) | | X | | | | |
| f. Other | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

⌘ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

) Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

| 3. WATER Will the proposed action result in: | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|---|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| ► a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? | | X | | | | |
| b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff? | | X | | | | |
| c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows? | | X | | | | |
| d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body? | | X | | | | |
| e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding? | | X | | | | |
| f. Changes in the quality of groundwater? | | X | | | | |
| g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater? | | X | | | | |
| h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater? | | X | | | | |
| i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation? | | X | | | | 3i. |
| j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality? | | X | | | | |
| k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity? | | X | | | | |
| l. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c) | | X | | | | 3l. |
| m. For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a) | | X | | | | |
| n. Other: | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3i). Water rights for the subject property and adjacent properties would not be affected by the proposed action. (Land & Water Consulting, 2001, Water Rights Report).

3l). Wetlands and floodplains occur on the subject property but would not be adversely impacted by the proposed action. Preserving the historic site would also preserve the wetlands and floodplains from development and adverse impacts.

☒ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

)) Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

| 4. VEGETATION | IMPACT [ⓧ] | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated [ⓧ] | Comment Index |
|--|----------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown [ⓧ] | None | Minor [ⓧ] | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)? | | X | | | | |
| b. Alteration of a plant community? | | X | | | | |
| c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species? | | X | | | | 4c. |
| d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land? | | | X | | | 4d. |
| e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds? | | X | | | | 4e. |
| ⓧf. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland? | | X | | | | 4f. |
| g. Other: | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4c). Two sensitive plant species have been found within one mile of the subject property: *Carex scoparia* (Pointed broom sedge) and *Cypripedium parviflorum* (Small yellow lady's slipper). These species may occur on the subject property, but a plant field study has not been conducted. Regardless of their occurrence, no development is proposed that would adversely affect these plants. Preservation of the historical site would also protect native plants. If any construction or development of the subject property is proposed in the future, a baseline field investigation for TES plants would be required prior to construction or development. A MEPA investigation would also be required prior to construction or development.

4d). The subject property has been irrigated for hay production and livestock grazing in the past. The management plan for the property would include a vegetation management plan that would enhance the value of the site regarding wildlife habitat and preservation of cultural resources.

4e). The management plan for the property would develop a plan to control weeds while protecting any sensitive plants that may occur on the property.

4f). The project would not adversely affect any wetlands or prime and unique farmland. Existing wetland and riparian areas on the subject property would be preserved under the proposed action. No development of the subject property is proposed.

ⓧ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

ⓧ) Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

| ►5. FISH/WILDLIFE | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|---|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat? | | X | | | | |
| b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species? | | X | | | | |
| c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species? | | X | | | | |
| d. Introduction of new species into an area? | | X | | | | |
| e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals? | | X | | | | |
| f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species? | | X | | | | |
| g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)? | | X | | | | |
| h. For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f) | | X | | | | 5h. |
| i. For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d) | | X | | | | |
| j. Other: | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

5h). There is one T&E species that has potential habitat in the area: *Salvelinus confluentus* pop 2 (Columbia River Bull trout). Lolo Creek has habitat designated for recovery of Bull trout. No impacts to Bull trout are expected under the proposed action. Preservation of the historic site would help preserve T&E species habitat that may occur in the area.

☐ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

) Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

| 6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS | IMPACT ^α | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated ^α | Comment Index |
|--|----------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown ^α | None | Minor ^α | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Increases in existing noise levels? | | | X | | | 6a. |
| b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels? | | X | | | | |
| c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property? | | X | | | | |
| d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation? | | X | | | | |
| e. Other: | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6a. As the 200-year anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition occurs, more visitors to the site are expected. This will result in an increase of noise made by the activity of people coming and going from the property.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

| 7. LAND USE | IMPACT ^α | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated ^α | Comment Index |
|--|----------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown ^α | None | Minor ^α | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area? | | X | | | | 7a. |
| b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance? | | X | | | | 7b. |
| c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action? | | X | | | | |
| d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences? | | X | | | | |
| e. Other: _____ | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7a. The subject property was used for hay production and livestock grazing in the past. The acquisition of the site will move the management focus of the property into preservation of the natural environment and away from agricultural use.

7b. The site has historical significance to Native Americans because it was an important camp site and trail junction for several tribes. Lewis and Clark used the site at two different times during their historic expedition. The proposed action will preserve the site so that present and future generations can learn of its significance.

^α Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

)) Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

| 8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS | IMPACT [⌘] | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated [⌘] | Comment Index |
|---|----------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown [⌘] | None | Minor [⌘] | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption? | | X | | | | 8a. |
| b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan? | | X | | | | |
| c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard? | | X | | | | 8b. |
| d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a) | | X | | | | |
| e. Other: | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8a) and 8b). An Environmental Site Audit was performed for the property and no recognized environmental conditions were found at the subject property (Land & Water Consulting, 2001). A recognized environmental condition is:

"The presence or likely presence of any hazardous substances or petroleum products on the subject property under conditions that indicate an existing release, a past release, or a material threat of a release of any hazardous substances or petroleum products into structures on the subject property or into the ground, groundwater, or surface water of the subject property" (ASTM E 1527).

- ⌘ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
-) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
-) Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

| 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|--|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area? | | X | | | | |
| b. Alteration of the social structure of a community? | | X | | | | |
| c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income? | | | X | | | 9c. |
| d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity? | | | X | | | 9d. |
| e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods? | | | X | | | 9e. |
| f. Other: | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9c) The proposed action may actually stimulate and create employment opportunities, either in a direct way through management of the site, or indirectly through entrepreneurial ideas associated with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

9d) Increased visitation to the Travelers' Rest area because of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial is expected, regardless of the proposed action. However, if the site is designated for public use and advertised, then use may be greater than under existing conditions under private ownership. The site may be a focus for a community historic theme embraced by local merchants, as discussed in a recent design charrette (see the public involvement discussion in **Section 4, pages 18 and 19** of this EA). The public historic site and historic town theme may encourage visitation to the town and the historic site. Increased visitation would be an economic boost to the town of Lolo.

9e) As discussed under (d) above, public ownership of the subject property may encourage visitation to the site and to the town of Lolo. Increased visitation would increase traffic on Highway 93 and the Mormon Creek Road. However, increased traffic is expected because of the Bicentennial, regardless of the proposed action. Traffic increases because of the proposed action would be an unknown incremental increase above existing levels. However, Highway 93 and the junction of Highway 93 and the Mormon Creek Road have recently been upgraded to enhance safety. Visitor parking plans have not been finalized, but parking for the historic site has been tentatively arranged on an adjacent parcel. No parking facilities are planned for the subject property.

☐ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

) Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

| 10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|---|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____ | | | X | | | 10a. |
| b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues? | | | X | | | 10b. |
| c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications? | | X | | | | |
| d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source? | | X | | | | |
| ► e. Define projected revenue sources | | X | | | | 10e. |
| ► f. Define projected maintenance costs. | | X | | | | 10f. |
| g. Other: _____ | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10a) The proposed action would increase recreational opportunities in the area. No impacts to existing water supply or sewage systems are expected. A vault toilet will be installed near the main Deschamps residence in a previously-disturbed area near the driveway.

10b) The proposed action would remove 15 acres of agricultural land from the Missoula County tax rolls. The Missoula County tax bill for the subject property is currently \$1086.49 per year. This decrease in tax revenue would cause a minor decrease in County revenue.

10e) The purchase of the subject property would occur without funding from the State of Montana or the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. The project was incubated by the Montana Community Development Corporation, which was awarded a Housing and Urban Development grant of \$200,000 to form a Lolo Community Development Corporation (LCDC) focused on the preservation effort. The LCDC will be a stand-alone non-profit organization focused on preservation of the Travelers' Rest site and community development. It has arranged for purchase of the Deschamps property by a private individual that will donate the property to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

10f) A management plan and Memorandum of Understanding would be developed for the property between the FWP and LCDC. Maintenance costs are expected to be provided from private sources. The LCDC will maintain an office at the subject property. An LCDC employee would live on the property and would be the property caretaker. No funds from FWP will be required at this time to operate and maintain the site for visitors and preservation.

☐ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

) Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

| ► 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION | IMPACT | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated | Comment Index |
|--|---------|------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown | None | Minor | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view? | | X | | | | 11a. |
| b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood? | | | X | | | 11b. |
| ► c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report) | | | | X | | 11c. |
| d. For P-R/D-L, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c) | | X | | | | |
| e. Other: | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11a) The proposed action will preserve the scenic vista and natural values of the area for the public to see and enjoy.

11b) Because of the national significance of the site, visitation will undoubtedly occur during the Bicentennial celebration of the Lewis and Clark expedition. This may alter the character of the community and/or the neighborhood during that time.

11c) Over 2000 people have visited the subject property in the last two years. Additional visitation is anticipated because of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, regardless of the proposed action. Public ownership and advertisements would encourage additional visitation above anticipated levels. Recreation opportunities would be enhanced by public ownership. Under private ownership, visitation is based upon the good will of the property owner.

☒ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

) Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

| 12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES | IMPACT [⌘] | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated [⌘] | Comment Index |
|---|----------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown [⌘] | None | Minor [⌘] | Potentially Significant | | |
| Will the proposed action result in: | | | | | | |
| ► a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance? | | X | | | | 12a |
| b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values? | | X | | | | |
| c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area? | | X | | | | |
| ⌘d. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a) | | X | | | | 12d. |
| e. Other: | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12a. The proposed action will preserve and protect the site from any destruction or alternation.

12d. Cultural and historic resources would be positively affected by the proposed action. The historic and archaeological site would be preserved for future generations. No construction is planned that would affect the site.

⌘ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

► Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

⌘) Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

| 13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole: | IMPACT [ⓧ] | | | | Can Impact Be Mitigated [ⓧ] | Comment Index |
|--|----------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Unknown [ⓧ] | None | Minor [ⓧ] | Potentially Significant | | |
| a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.) | | X | | | | |
| b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur? | | X | | | | |
| c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan? | | X | | | | |
| d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed? | | X | | | | |
| e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created? | | X | | | | |
| ⓧf. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e) | | X | | | | |
| ⓧg. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required. | | X | | | | |

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ⓧ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
-) Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
-)) Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

1. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

- **No Action Alternative:** Under this alternative, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks would not acquire the subject property. The property would not be preserved as a state and national historic site. The property would be available to a private individual or developer. Under private ownership, the undisturbed character of the site could be permanently altered. Planned historical and archeological investigations may not be conducted. Visitors to the site may no longer be welcome. Much of the historic and archaeological value of the property could be lost and public access could be denied under the No Action Alternative.
- **Acquisition by another Foundation, State, Federal, or Local Agency:** The foundation donating the property through an intermediary stipulates that the property must be donated to a state, federal, or local government agency. No other agency has been identified that is interested or capable of owning and administering the site. Part of the mission of Montana FWP is to preserve historically- and archaeologically-significant sites in the state.

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

As state-owned land, the site will be offered greater protection under cultural and archaeological preservation laws than under private ownership. If any trail or visitor facilities are proposed in the future, cultural and archaeological surveys will be performed prior to construction. Approval would be sought from the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any development of the site will be to enhance its value as a historic and archaeological site.

3. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO. If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EIS is not required because no significant negative impacts or issues have been found regarding the acquisition of the site by FWP. The proposed action would decrease potential negative impacts to the subject property, which has profound cultural and archaeological significance. The transfer of the site to public ownership will ensure it is not altered for residential or commercial development. Negative impacts of the property acquisition, such as traffic and parking concerns, are not significant enough to warrant an EIS. Parking is tentatively being planned for an adjacent property. If any parking facilities are proposed for the subject property in the future, they would undergo a separate MEPA and SHPO analysis.

4. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

This project is a community-based initiative to preserve an important component of Montana history. Extensive public involvement has been sought on the project. Public involvement has been more than adequate considering the environmental issues associated with the proposed action. The following public events have been held regarding the project:

- **Agency Meetings:** Numerous government agencies have met with project proponents during the last 3 years. Meetings with agencies and other concerned individuals began in November, 1998. The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation has been involved with several of these meetings.

Travelers' Rest Environmental Assessment

- **Design Charette:** In April of 1999, The Idaho-Montana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the Missoula County Office of Planning and Grants (OPG) co-sponsored a design charette to help the community plan for the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. The charette brought together over 100 individuals, some from as far as 250 miles away, to help the Lolo community focus on preserving key historic sites, improvements that would give the town a "sense of place", and enhance the attractiveness of the area to Lewis and Clark Bicentennial visitors.
- **Lasting Legacies:** The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation conducted a Lasting Legacies forum in Missoula for four days in April, 1999. The public was invited and the Travelers' Rest site was discussed at the forum.
- **Monthly Steering Committee Meetings:** Since November, 1999, steering committee meetings for the project have been held nearly every month. The meetings have been advertised and open to the public. Public involvement has been strongly encouraged at the meetings.
- **Coordination with Adjacent Landowners:** Several adjacent landowners have been contacted regarding the proposed action.
- **Distribution of this EA:**
 - Mailing List**—Notice regarding the availability of this EA or a copy of the EA will be sent to those on a mailing list developed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) and the Lolo Community Development Corporation (LCDC). Over 90 people are on the mailing list. A copy of the EA will also be available upon request to the LCDC.
 - Internet:** The EA will be on the FWP and LCDC Travelers' Rest web-sites.
FWP web site: <http://www.fwp.state.mt.us>
Travelers' Rest web site: <http://www.travelersrest.org>
 - News Media:** A legal notice will be provided to 7 state newspapers. A news release will be sent to several radio, television and newspapers in the state.
- **HB495:** Administrative Rules of Montana in 12.8.602 was not triggered.

5. Duration of EA comment period if any: 30 days

6. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

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